

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Randy J. Hall et al.

Serial No.: n/a

**Continuation of:** 10/144,976

**Filed:** May 14, 2002

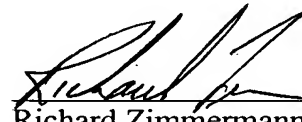
Title: Replaceable Valve Seat Ring  
with Enhanced Flow Design

Parent Case Group Art Unit: 3753

Examiner: Mr. George Walton

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.08**

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as enclosed therewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on **March 2, 2004**, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 utilizing the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service under Mailing Label No. EV 323 764 035 US.



Richard Zimmermann

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO CONTINUATION APPLICATION FILED  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(B)**

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted as a preliminary amendment to a continuation application filed herewith and claiming priority from co-pending U.S. Patent Application S.N. 10/144,976, set to issue today, March 2, 2004. This paper is submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b). Entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested prior to consideration of the above identified continuation application.

A **Listing of the Claims** begins at page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** in support of the amendments begin at page 7 of this paper.